Privacy Pursuit!
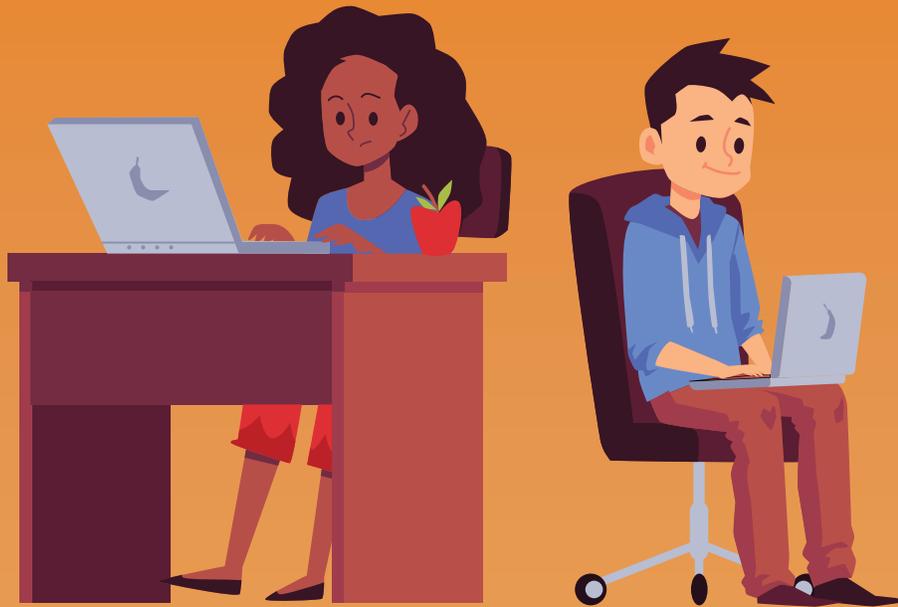
Games and Activities for Kids

Learn about online privacy through word searches, crosswords, puzzles, and more!

Have fun learning about online privacy

Who ever said learning can't be fun? The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario made this booklet to help kids learn more about online privacy with useful information, neat games, real stories, and some interesting questions.

Kids, you can go through it on your own and it's also something you can enjoy doing with a parent, teacher, or friend. **Let's get started!**

What do kids do online?

Before getting into what online privacy is all about, let's think about what kinds of things you do online. We all use the internet for so many different activities. We play games, watch shows and videos, do schoolwork, visit websites, listen to music, use different apps, join social networks, and chat with friends and family.

Every household is different. Some kids do more online than others. It can be great for learning new things, having a good time and connecting with people. To do these things safely though, it's also important to be pro privacy. Protect your privacy and the privacy of others when you're online.

Q. Here's a question for you:

What are some things you and your friends enjoy doing online?

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Did you know?

Personal information is valuable and it's how some companies make money. It's not always a bad thing, but you should know that when a game or app is supposedly free to use, it usually means we have to pay for it by giving away some private information and seeing ads we don't always need or want to see.
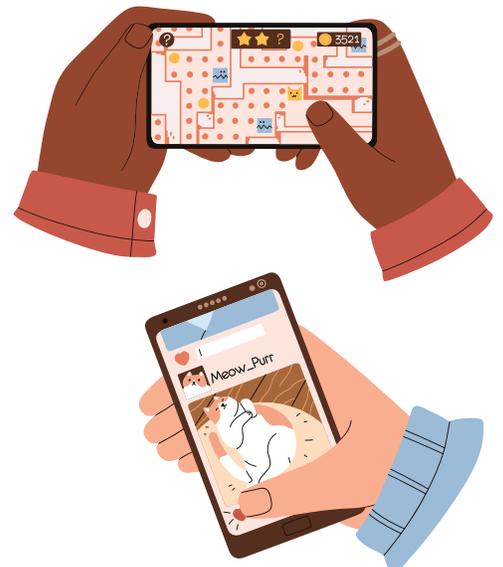
Game Time !

Scavenger Hunt

This is a simple game to play with others in your your home or in your classroom. More and more of our lives are online. And anything that's connected to the internet can collect personal information.

1. Each person guesses the number of devices in their home or classroom that are connected to the internet.

2. Look around. Begin building your list. Do it together or separately and then compare.

3. Got everything? What's the grand total?

4. Who had the closest guess?

5. Are you surprised by how many connected devices you have that may be collecting information?

Did you know?

Some toys are very **"smart."** These toys, which are connected to the internet, can be super interactive. Some have little cameras and microphones, and some even know your location when you're playing with them. The thing is, these toys are really computers that collect personal information and can be hacked, like other kinds of computers. Someone could hack into your computer system illegally and see the personal information that it has collected about you.

What is **privacy** anyway?

Privacy means having some control over information about yourself — **your personal information** — and being able to make good choices about how it is collected, used, and shared with others, like people you don't know, companies, and the government.

Your personal information can be anything that can identify you as a person — all the different pieces of information that are unique to you.

A few examples of your personal information are:

- **Your name**
- **Your address**
- **Your birthdate**
- **Things you like and do**
- **Photos and videos of you**

Q. Here's a question for you:

What does privacy mean to you and why do *you* think it's important?

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Game Time !

Crossword

There are so many things that make you *you*. Take a moment to think about things that may be your personal information. Can you guess 15 things that can be personal information in this crossword?

(answers on page 14)
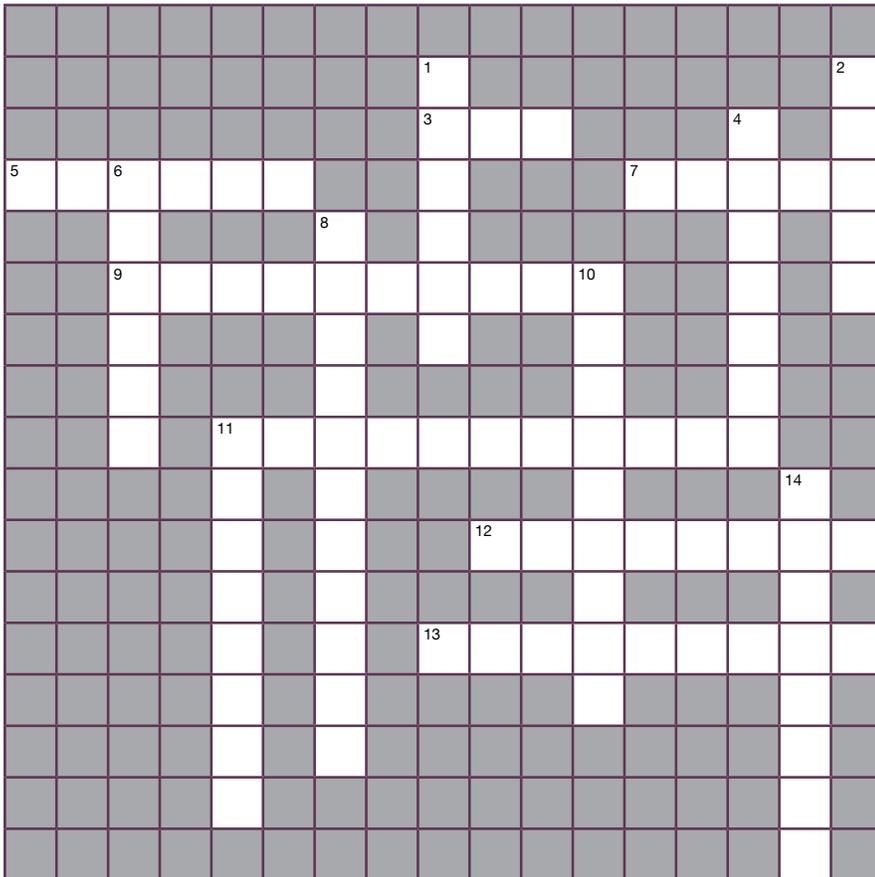
Across

3	How old you are
5	The place you go to learn
7	Another word for a moving picture
9	Where you were born
11	Things you like
12	Where you are
13	When you were born

Down

1	The people you live with
2	Another word for picture
4	Another word for where you live
6	Things you do regularly, like brushing your teeth
8	To call you, we dial your...
10	Another word for your family background
11	A code that keeps things secure
14	People you know
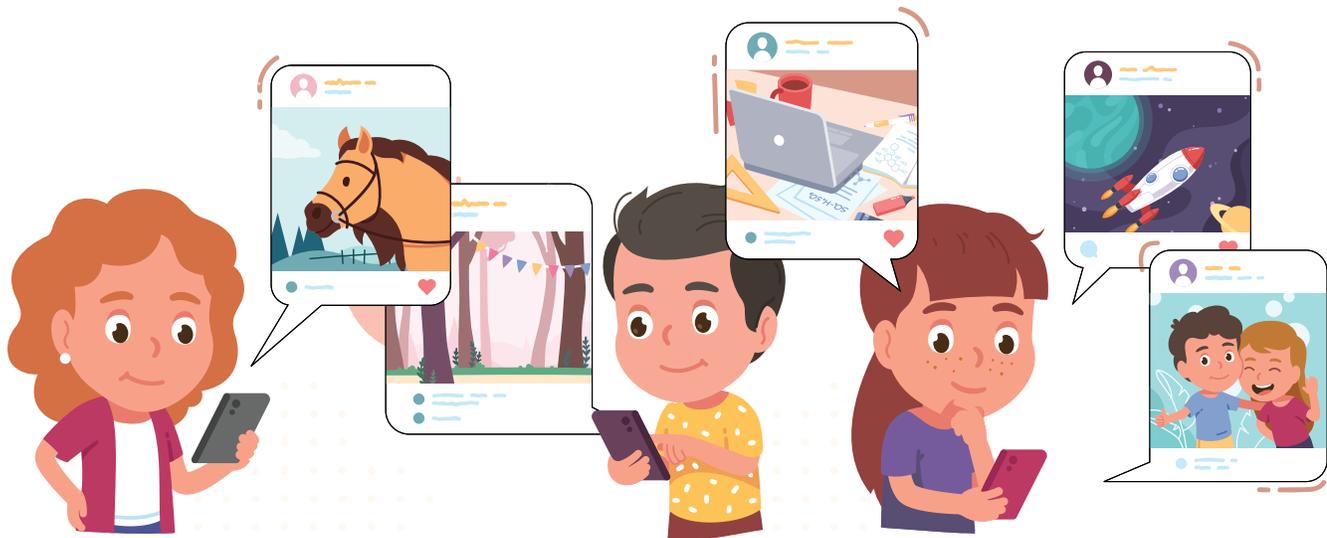
Why worry about privacy...
what can happen?

Your personal information can be used in ways you and your family might be ok with. It can also be used in ways that might surprise you, make you feel uncomfortable, and even put you at risk.

When online privacy isn't protected, these are a few things that can happen:

- Companies can track your online activities and build detailed profiles about you to send you highly targeted ads. Sometimes it's cool, but it can also start to feel creepy.

- Information about yourself you'd prefer to keep private or that might not even be true can be posted online by someone else and this can be really embarrassing or even hurtful.

- Things you post online today can stay there forever and can affect what friends, teachers, and even future employers think about you.

- As you grow up, you may change your mind, or feel or think differently about things you posted online when you were younger. You might want to erase what you posted, but then you find out you cannot.

- Not protecting your privacy online can make you vulnerable to cyberbullies and can even risk your physical safety in the real world.

- Scammers can trick you into giving them information to get into your — and your family's — accounts and can even steal money. Lots of times these thieves can be hard to catch.

Real privacy dangers

Don't just take it from us. These kids shared some of their privacy problems to help you avoid their mistakes. (Their names have been changed to protect their identity!)

- Mei posted photos of herself and her friends using hashtags to get more views. At first, she thought they were funny, but afterwards, she changed her mind and wanted to take the photos down, but it was too late. The photos had already been copied and reposted to other sites.

- Luke got an email that looked like it was from a familiar website. He clicked on a link and then entered login information. Unfortunately, this email was actually a "phishing" attack. Malware, which is a computer program designed to do bad things, was downloaded onto the family computer, corrupting a bunch of his parents' important files. Luke felt horrible and his parents were not happy either!

- Quinn was watching a video of his favourite TikToker. Someone wrote in the comments, asking people to share their opinions by texting a number they provided. Quinn thought it was another kid, so he texted them, saying it wasn't a good idea to post their phone number online. It turns out it wasn't a kid. It was an adult — a bad person trying to trick kids into communicating with them.

- Naomi and Gabrielle were best friends who shared everything. Naomi even shared her email login and password. Then they got into a bad argument. To get back at Naomi, Gabrielle went into Naomi's email and sent some rude messages to Naomi's friends and teachers, pretending to be her. Naomi had to explain to everyone that those rude messages didn't come from her.

- While Kamran was on holidays with his family, he shared some cool photos of their trip on social media. He had lots of contacts and his account was open to the public. When he and his family returned, they were upset to find their home had been broken into. The thieves knew they weren't home because of Kamran's posts and they stole tons of stuff, including Kamran's gaming console!

Q. Here's a question for you:

What are some of the things Mei, Luke, Quinn, Naomi, Gabrielle, and Kamran could have done differently to avoid their privacy problems?

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Try to decode the message in these cryptograms. Some letters have been replaced with a random number.

What privacy advice would *you* give Mei and Kamran?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
11	9	10	1	17	7	24	21	25	2	6	26	4	14	19	12	22	5	3	23	18	8	20	16	15	13

__ __   __   __   __   __   __   __ __   __ __
23   25   6   9   7   5   19

__   __ __   __   __ __   __   __ __   __   __   __
12   3 23   21   23 3   19 14   25   17

What privacy advice would *you* give Quinn?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
26	14	21	13	2	5	12	23	17	20	18	4	6	19	16	1	24	8	15	11	22	7	25	10	9	3

__ __   __ __   __ __   __   __ __   __ __   __ __
13   16 11   21   6   22 19   21   2

__ __ __   __ __   __ __   __ __   __ __ __
17   23   15 11   19 12   8 15   16   4 17   2

What privacy advice would *you* give Luke?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
7	11	2	18	3	8	16	26	19	10	21	13	5	25	22	24	20	4	12	14	1	9	17	6	23	15

__ __   __   __   __   __ __   __   __
11   2   4   8   11   14

__   __ __ __ __ __   __   __   __ __
12   12 24 19 2 19   12   5 7 19

__ __ __   __ __ __   __ __
7 18 13   21 12

(answers on page 14)

11 great ways to **protect** privacy

Let's remember… it's not all doom and gloom! There are many good things about being online. Knowing more about privacy and how to protect it can help you enjoy these awesome activities more safely.

Here are a bunch of ways you can be pro privacy:

1. Use passwords that are easy for you to remember but hard for others to guess. Don't use things like a pet's name or a birthday. They should have at least 12 characters, with a combination of letters, symbols, and numbers. Usernames and passwords are like keys that can unlock the door to a lot of information, so keep them private.

2. Preview websites, apps, and games with a parent, teacher, or guardian, to make sure they're appropriate for kids. Some apps are only designed for kids 13 years and up. Check out their terms of use and their privacy policies. Some of these could be hard to read and understand, so don't be shy to ask for help.

3. Use devices in common areas in your household. This way, it's easier to stay safe online and to get help or ask a question if you run into a privacy problem.

4. Most games, apps, and online tools have settings. They help to tailor things to your preferences. Many come with "default privacy settings" that are basic settings to protect your personal information. But these default settings might not be good enough and you will want to make them stronger. Check and tighten your privacy settings with the help of a parent, teacher, or guardian. To start, set your accounts to "private," turn off your location, and limit who can friend you and send you messages.

5. Always ask a parent, teacher, or guardian before giving out any personal information. Some companies ask for too much. On a lot of forms, there's information that's required, but there are usually parts that are voluntary — information you can share if you want but don't have to. Limit what you give out.

6. When you're playing videogames, don't share any information in your profile that could identify you and your location. Use a fake name and image as your avatar.

7. When you're on sites or apps that connect with people, make sure your friends and contacts are only people you know in real life. It can be unsafe to communicate or play with people you don't know.

8. Watch out for scams. Don't click on links unless you're sure it's safe and don't share or download information. Emails and messages might look legit, but these are some of the ways scammers trick people.

9. Think about what you share and post online, because once it's out there, it can stay online forever and can be copied, altered, and used in ways you don't like.

10. If you experience something online that makes you uncomfortable or worried, or if you think you made a privacy mistake, tell a parent, guardian, or teacher, so they can help you.

11. Go offline sometimes. Remember how much fun it is to do other things too, like playing sports, going to the park, reading a story, doing a puzzle, or making a craft.

Privacy empathy

One of the best ways of protecting privacy is by respecting other people's privacy the same way you would want to be treated yourself. Have you ever told a secret to a friend who didn't keep it? How did that make you feel?

Did you ever break a privacy promise to someone else and felt really bad about it afterwards, wishing you could take it back?

If you could tell others how you would want your privacy to be treated online, what are three Dos and Don'ts you would ask them to respect?
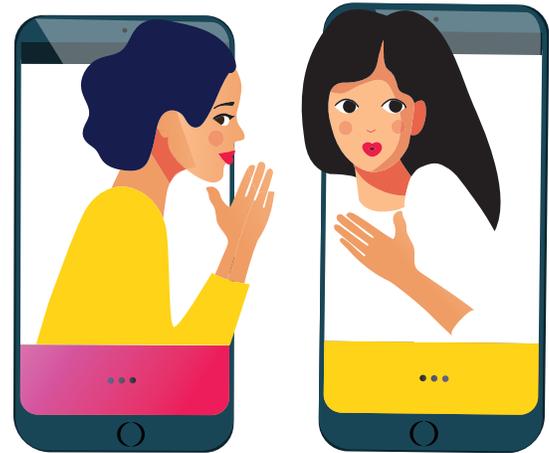
DOs

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DON'Ts

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Hmmm… now, read your list of Dos and Don'ts again, and ask yourself… are you ready and willing to follow those same rules to respect other people's privacy as well?

Did you know?

Cookies are delicious, but they're not just baked treats. There's another kind of cookie that's not as tasty. When we talk about cookies on the internet, these are little files that are placed on your computer or device when you visit a website. They can help improve how websites work, but they can also learn, share and track what you do on the internet.

Game Time!

Match-it

Think you remember what you've learned about ways to protect privacy? Draw a line to match the phrase on the left with the correct phrase on the right.

Protect yourself from email scams	Read terms of use and privacy policies
Only play and communicate with...	Use private mode, turning off location, limit who can friend or message
When online gaming…	Don't share friends' personal information without their permission
Strong passwords	Combination of 12 characters or more
Review apps and games with parents before signing up	Do puzzles, crafts, sports and play outside
Go offline	Don't click on links that may be unsafe
Respect others online	Use a fake name and image
Tighten privacy settings	...people you know in real life

Now... show the grownups how it's done!

Do you sometimes think kids know more about technology than adults? A lot of kids are comfortable with the internet because they've grown up with this stuff.

Think your parents, grandparents, or guardians need a bit of a nudge to better protect privacy?

You can help make your household more pro privacy. Show that you care about privacy by going through some of these ideas with your family and by helping them use the tips in this booklet for their online activities.

Did you know?

People have privacy rights. There are laws to protect your right to privacy and to make sure organizations are doing the right thing. But it's also up to you to take some steps to protect your personal information and respect other people's privacy.

Game Time!

Word search

There's a lot to learn about privacy and reading this booklet is a good way to start. Can you find some of the privacy key words in this word search?

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V A H E U R U L E S X B I R Z X V W Y H N C W N Q
M X D Z A A M Q O W G O B F P A E J S M B L W Z K
Q G F Z D D A R A Q L K O B R P Q E B O S Y Z V M
A E W C P Q P N G L J Z A L M I R Q S Z X F H H B
T A L T S N P E A O N A B R J A F O P M K S O U G
M K L G P P S E G X G U N O W O L D T D B E I B O
B F P Y F R J L K D Y E M Q S Z Y W E E Q B A K N
O E V A R F O O A O Y Q O N L I N E A P C B V F C
L P X A N S Z F J W W S S K O P A A L R X T K M S
M X R Z S R L F I N Q Y R W M T U C E J E X W G E
I W D I G M C P Q L Y T W P I H H Y O H D C I Z T
S A Y R V F H W R O E N F E U K L B J U M M D L T
S R V Z Y A M T C A L Y F B J J V E T J O M S J I
W E T A R K C D M D J P W V E S Q R M Z R C I B N
T U S P T S H Y I L R M L N N X O B O A E X X T G
R Z F W R A H M J E J F I R Y M P U H C D W W J S
A C G L U J R E R V N H M C R K H L Z I E S H H H
C K K P B I Q L P K L K I C E F I L V P A M A W W
K I Y V L V X V H D M Z T P V W S Y I C A A C L W
F U N S M H C F A Y E S N N O S H I J O Q R K F Z
A Q X R P M X P X P C Q M Q O N I N V O W T E U L
O J W G Q M V X G G J U S U Q C N G G K E T R J F
D B Y P A S S W O R D D R N N F G E B I T E W J I
K U W U M S F W I Q T Z D T Q A I W O E A X S R K
Q F R E S P E C T G E Y O C E C D V K S A F E T Y
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cyberbullying	download	settings	phishing
profile	password	protect	privacy
respect	malware	cookies	safety
online	avatar	hacker	smart
limit	apps	rules	track

(answers on page 15)

Q. Here's a question for you:

Did you have some fun learning about privacy, why it's important to protect it and the different ways you can do that when you're online?

If so, tell your friends about this activity book so they could learn as they play too!

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Did you know?

There are more helpful resources like this at websites like **www.mediasmarts.ca** and **www.commonsensemedia.org**. Check them out!

For more information about what the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario does to protect privacy, visit **www.ipc.on.ca**. You will also find other helpful materials that can help you learn about privacy. Your parent, teacher, or guardian might also want to listen to our podcast, Info Matters. We have an episode called Teaching Kids about Privacy!
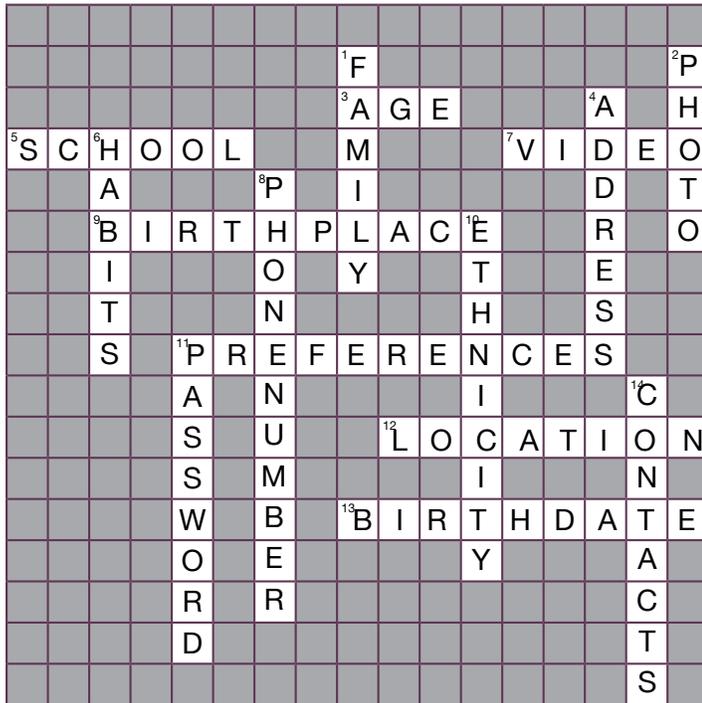
Thank you for learning more about privacy and why it really matters. Although your personal information may be private, what you learned about privacy isn't, so please spread the word!

Game Time !

Game Time! Answer Key

Crossword

							¹F					²P
					³A	G	E		⁴A			H
⁵S	C	⁶H	O	O	L		M		⁷V	I	D	E	O
		A			⁸P	I			D			T
	⁹B	I	R	T	H	P	L	A	C	¹⁰E		R		O
		I			O		Y			T		E
		T			N					H		S
		S		¹¹P	R	E	F	E	R	E	N	C	E	S
			A		N					I		¹⁴C
			S		U		¹²L	O	C	A	T	I	O	N
			S		M					I		N
			W		B		¹³B	I	R	T	H	D	A	T	E
			O		E				Y			A
			R		R							C
			D									T
												S

Cryptogram

Q: What privacy advice would you give Mei and Kamran?
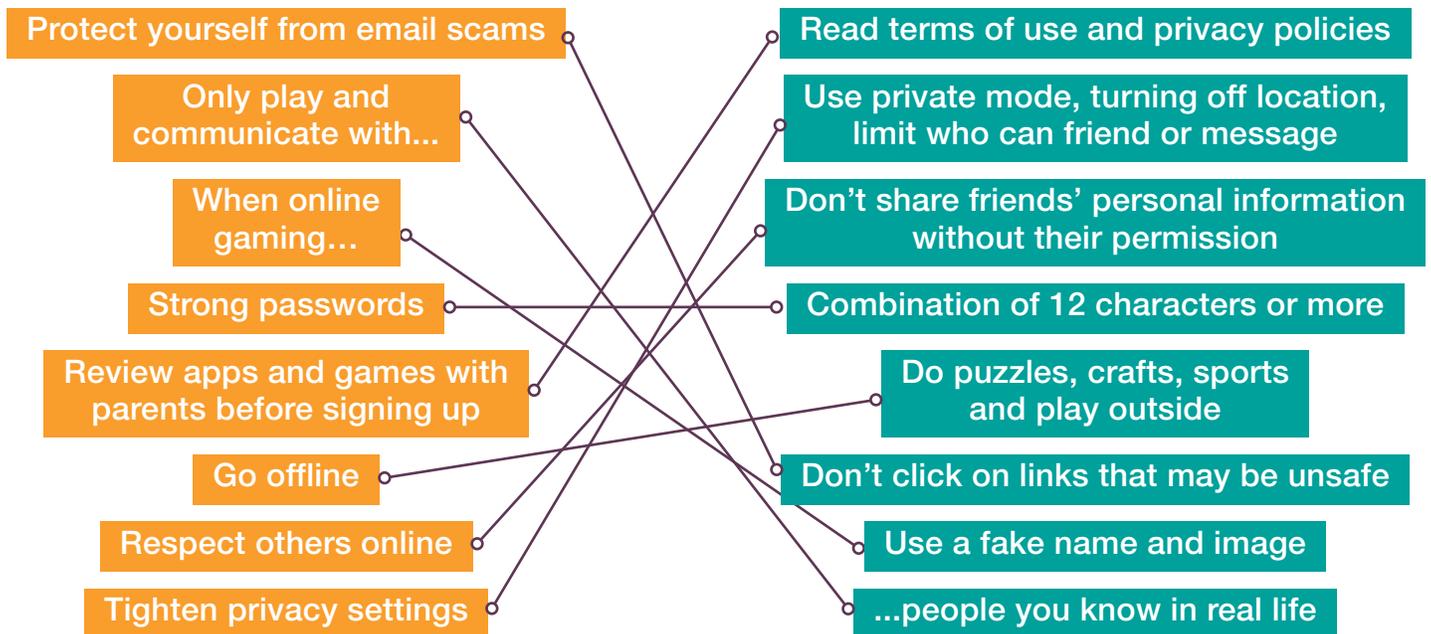
A: **Think before you post photos online**

Q: What privacy advice would you give Quinn?

A: **Do not communicate with strangers online**

Q: What privacy advice would you give Luke?

A: **Be careful about suspicious emails and links**

Match-it

Protect yourself from email scams — Don't click on links that may be unsafe

Only play and communicate with… — ...people you know in real life

When online gaming… — Use a fake name and image

Strong passwords — Combination of 12 characters or more

Review apps and games with parents before signing up — Read terms of use and privacy policies

Go offline — Do puzzles, crafts, sports and play outside

Respect others online — Don't share friends' personal information without their permission

Tighten privacy settings — Use private mode, turning off location, limit who can friend or message

Word Search

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V A H E U R U L E S X B I R Z X V W Y H N C W N Q
M X D Z A A M Q O W G O B F P A E J S M B L W Z K
Q G F Z D D A R A Q L K O B R P Q E B O S Y Z V M
A E W C P Q P N G L J Z A L M I R O S Z X F H H B
T A L T S N P E A O N A B R J A F Q P M K S O U G
M K L G P P S E G X G U N O W O L D T D B E I B O
B F P Y F R J L K D Y E M Q S Z Y W E E Q B A K N
O E V A R F Q Q A O Y Q O N L I N E A P C B V F C
L P X A N S Z F J W W S S K O P A A L R X T K M S
M X R Z S R L F I N Q Y R W M T U C E J E X W G E
I W D I G M C P Q L Y T W P I H H Y O H D C I Z T
S A Y R V F H W R O E N F E U K L B J U M M D L T
S R V Z Y A M T C A L Y F B J J V E T J O M S J I
W E T A R K C D M D J P W V E S Q R M Z R C I B N
T U S P T S H Y I L R M L N N X O B O A E X X T G
R Z F W R A H M J E J F I R Y M P U H C D W W J S
A C G L U J R E R V N H M C R K H L Z I E S H H H
C K K P B I Q L P K L K I C E F I L V P A M A W W
K I Y V L V X V H D M Z T P V W S Y I C A A C L W
F U N S M H C F A Y E S N N O S H I J O Q R K F Z
A Q X R P M X P X P C Q M Q O N I N V O W T E U L
O J W G Q M V X G G J U S U Q C N G G K E T R J F
D B Y P A S S W O R D D R N N F G E B I T E W J I
K U W U M S F W I Q T Z D T Q A I W O E A X S R K
Q F R E S P E C T G E Y O C E C D V K S A F E T Y
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Privacy Pursuit!
Games and Activities for Kids

Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario

Commissaire à l'information et à la protection de la vie privée de l'Ontario